

06 - HEGEMONIC STATES IN THE MODERN WORLD-SYSTEM

Participants of this workshop should discuss the mechanism of hegemonic shifts in the world-system from the earliest hegemonic role of the Genoa-Iberian axis to the US hegemonic cycle. Discussions ought to focus on the specific conditions of the emergence of each hegemonic state (if the concept of 'state' is utilizable in all hegemonic cycles). The emphasis will be placed both on in-depth contextualization of the rise of each hegemonic state as well as on the detection of certain patterns of hegemonic ascendance and downfall. More concretely, the role of the so-called 'financialization' and its role in the demise of every hegemonic state would be in line with the aim of detecting a mechanism of hegemonic shifts. On the other hand, the analysis of historical context of any hegemonic state is a prerequisite for the discussion of each hegemonic cycle. For example, the discussion of the Dutch case should focus at least partly on the problems such as a relatively unstable international system (when compared to the British cycle), shortage of labor, lack of demographic potential for large-scale colonial expansion or the emergence of mercantilism in the Baltic region around 1720s. More precise topics, such as the role of India in the British hegemonic cycle are also more than welcome. Participants should therefore discuss the specific condition of each hegemonic cycle and the impact of each hegemonic state on the world-system as a whole. The goal of the workshop is also to test the viability of certain concepts such as "spatio-temporal fix", "systemic cycle of accumulation", "imperialism", "mechanism of reversal" etc. It would be preferable that the presentations of the participants include the employment of relevant concepts as well as the discussion of their applicability. Participants are therefore encouraged to present a heavy-contextualized argument which should also be put in a certain theoretical framework. I would like to emphasize that this is only a framework which is to be considered as fluid as possible and capable of sustaining a variety of themes provided that they are relevant for the general frame.